

What is the Students Designing Sustainability Project?

"If you are thinking a year ahead, sow a seed

If you are thinking ten years ahead, plant a tree

If you are thinking one hundred years ahead, educate the people."

Chinese proverb

SDS is an interactive educational project that teaches you how to assess a community's environmental problems, seek out solutions and propose new community system designs to accommodate those solutions. It begins with your class assuming the role of a community council. First the council agrees upon definitions for community and sustainability; then it determines if the urban design for the Vienna District is sustainable by looking at statistics for topics like *population density, transportation demands, water & energy consumption, and waste management* and by talking with community members. Problems are noted as they are recognized. Then class members form research committees that investigate solutions for selected problems, reporting their findings back to the class (council). The project culminates with each class designing and building a model; these models illustrate the class's ideas for addressing the environmental problems and making Vienna District a more sustainable community. On _____, an exhibit of models from all five 8th grade classes will be on display in the Commons. Family, friends and interested community members are invited to the exhibition; class representatives will be on hand to answer questions about their proposed plans and models.

